

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-25

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P R 220335Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4940
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6667

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR HU VS
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN NOTES COMPLAINING OF GVN "HOSTILE ACTIONS"

REF: BUDAPEST 1237

1. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO MAKE SPECIFIC REPLY TO HUNGARIAN VERBAL NOTES DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. THESE SEEM TO BE FOR THE RECORD AND SPECIFIC RESPONSE WOULD LIKELY PRODUCE ITS OWN REPLY FROM THE HUNGARIANS. IT DOES NOT SEEM TO US THAT THIS KIND OF DIALOGUE WITH THE HUNGARIANS WOULD BE DESIRABLE AT THIS STAGE.

2. WE DO SUGGEST HOWEVER THAT EMBASSY BUDAPEST MAY WISH TO POINT OUT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON EARLY OCCASION THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TO ICCS AND GVN WOULD IMPROVE QUICKLY IF DELEGATION MADE EFFORT TO DEAL WITH GVN ON DIPLOMATICALLY CORRECT BASIS. THE ICCS DELEGATES IN SVN ARE EXTENDED "PRIVELEGES AND IMMUNITIES EQUIVALENT TO THOSE ACCREDITED TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND AGENTS" AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 12 OF THE ICCS PROTOCOL. WHILE THIS OF COURSE DOES NOT IMPLY FORMAL

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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND THE GVN, IT DOES

IMPLY THAT THE HUNGARIANS, AS BENEFICIARIES OF GVN DIPLOMATIC COURTESIES, HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO RECIPROCATATE BY DEALING WITH THE GVN ON THE BASIS OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC COURTESY. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE FAILURE OF THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TO DO THIS HAS CAUSED UNDERSTANDABLY ADVERSE COMMENT WITHIN THE GVN. IN THIS SITUATION NOTHING WOULD MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION THAN FOR THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAY A NORMAL COURTESY CALL ON A HIGH-RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON HIS RETURN TO SAIGON.

3. EMBASSY BUDAPEST MIGHT ALSO WISH TO NOTE THAT HUNGDEL IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THEIR POLICIES IN THE ICCS HAVE UNDERSTANDABLY MET A NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM GVN AUTHORITIES. GVN SEES POLICY OF HUNGDEL IN ICCS AS HIGHLY PARTIAL AND DEDICATED TO PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF INTERESTS OF "PRG" AND DRV. ON MATTER OF INVESTIGATIONS HUNGDEL HAS BEEN INSISTENT ON OBTAINING SECURITY GUARANTEES AND LIAISON OFFICERS FROM BOTH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES BEFORE ANY REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. HUNGDEL ALSO SPONSORED POLICY OF HANDLING REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, SUPPORTED BY POLDEL. (IRDEL AND INDODEL, IN EFFORT TO GET ICCS INVESTIGATIONS MOVING AGAIN, RELUCTANTLY AGREED.) THESE POLICIES HAVE PRODUCED LONG DELAYS IN ICCS RESPONSES TO INVESTIGATION REQUESTS. IN INCIDENTS SUCH AS CAI LAI AND SONG PHU WHERE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS PARAMOUNT THESE DELAYS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS PARTICULARLY EXASPERATING TO GVN. FURTHER HUNGDEL INTRANGSIGENCE IS SHOWN IN CURRENT IMPASSE ON AGENDA AGREEMENT WHERE HUNGDEL IS HOLDING OUT AGAINST EVEN POLDEL.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THE HUNGARIAN POSITION IN ABOVE MATTERS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WEAKENED RESPECT IN WHICH THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION IS HELD BY THE GVN. WE URGE THE HUNGARIANS TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE POLICY IN THE ICCS, WHICH WOULD IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE GVN WHILE AT SAME TIME MAKING ICCS MORE EFFECTIVE.

5. IT SEEMS TO US THAT SUCH CHANGES AS THESE IN THE STYLE AND MANNER IN WHICH THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION FUNCTIONS WOULD COST NOTHING BUT COULD DO MUCH TO REMOVE THE CAUSE OF FRICTION BETWEEN GVN AND GOH AND INDIRECTLY BENEFIT THE WHOLE ICCS.

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